Thirty-fifth session
6 June-1 July 1988, Geneva
Item 5 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

Implementation of selected country programmes

AFRICA

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

This annual report provides a brief account of the principal activities conducted by the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) during the past year. The report should be read in conjunction with related documentation submitted to the Governing Council at its current session: the reports of the Administrator on the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (DP/1988/24); the UNDP response to emergency, medium- and long-term development requirements in Africa (DP/1988/65); the individual country programmes now before the Council; and assistance to national liberation movements recognized in its area by the Organization of African Unity (DP/1988/2).

By the end of this session of the Governing Council all country programmes and the RBA intercountry programme for the fourth cycle will have been presented. The report refers in particular to the National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NaTCAPs) conducted in the past year as well as to the round tables which were held. The enhanced participation of UNDP in consultative group meetings is also underlined.
In highlighting some of the special features of the Africa Programme, the report makes specific references to the role of UNDP in support of structural adjustment; collaboration with non-governmental organizations; and the role of women in development and the private sector.

The areas of concentration for the intercountry programme are shown, together with examples of co-ordination with various African intergovernmental organizations. Specific reference is also made to a number of projects concerned with Africa's economic recovery programmes, namely, the monitoring of aid flows and development programmes, the social dimensions of structural adjustment, and the Special Action Programme for Administration and Management.
INTRODUCTION


2. The UNDP country and intercountry programmes for Africa in the fourth cycle have been formulated, in consultation with national Governments, to support African countries in their implementation of United Nations-PAAERD. The programmes also reflect UNDP's concern to help African Governments implement structural adjustment measures and address the social issues that may emanate from economic reform or adjustment. Care has been taken to ensure that the allocation of resources is consistent with the priorities, strategies and thematic emphasis identified in the Programme of Action.

I. STATUS OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROVAL AND OF PROJECT FORMULATION

3. Approval of country programmes. As of June 1988, 42 country programmes for African countries in the fourth cycle will have been submitted to the Governing Council for approval. The total indicative planning figure (IPF) resources allocated for these programmes amount to close to $1 billion. Thirty-one of the country programmes, with total UNDP resources of $768.6 million, were approved by the Council during 1986 and 1987. The 11 country programmes to be submitted to the Council in 1988 represent UNDP resources of $222.9 million.

4. Status of projects approved by the Project Appraisal Committee and the Administrator's Action Committee. The Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) of the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) was established in its present form in May 1986 in response to a UNDP administrative policy decision to improve programme and project quality throughout UNDP. The Committee is chaired, alternately, by the Bureau Director for regional projects and by one of the two Deputy Directors for national projects. During the period from May to December 1986, PAC held 25 weekly meetings and reviewed 70 projects altogether with a total UNDP contribution of $88,172,990. From January 1987 to 23 November 1987, PAC held a total of 47 weekly meetings and reviewed 283 projects altogether.

5. Since the creation in November 1986 of the Action Committee under the chairmanship of the Administrator, as at 9 December 1987 221 projects with a total value of $323,290,000 had been approved for RBA. Of the 146 projects that had been approved as of 30 September 1987, 98 projects had signed project documents; 3 had signed preparatory assistance documents; 10 had approved advance authorizations; and 35 project documents were still being processed for signature.
6. Results of consultations with United Nations executing agencies. With a view to improving co-ordination between UNDP and the United Nations executing agencies, UNDP arranged for senior members of its staff to consult with senior officials at the headquarters of these agencies in April and June 1987. These fruitful meetings were followed by visits of senior Bureau staff to the agencies to review individual projects and iron out difficulties in their implementation. These discussions will become a regular feature of programme monitoring.

II. PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE


7. While the programme delivery strategy of RBA for the fourth cycle (1987-1991) aims at utilizing the entire IPF entitlements during the cycle, including the carry-over from the previous cycle, it must be recognized that full implementation may not be possible in a small number of countries which continue to suffer from security problems. By the end of the cycle, this will amount to a total of $1.287 billion for country and intercountry programmes. To achieve this, annual expenditure targets are set for the region in line with the expected pattern of programme delivery on a global level. The regional target is in turn translated into specific country or programme targets. Along with the expenditure targets, a budget build-up pattern desirable for achieving the delivery objective has been worked out. A monitoring system has also been instituted to watch the budget build-up trend closely on a monthly basis.

8. In contrast to past practices whereby the transition from one cycle into the next was characterized by a relatively reduced level of delivery at the start of the new cycle, an increase of about 9 per cent is projected for 1987, the first year of the fourth cycle, over the actual expenditure realized in 1986. The same pattern of growth is expected to continue through to the end of the cycle thereby aiming at the delivery of the full IPF allocations by the end of 1991, in the vast majority of the countries in the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPF delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Millions of US dollars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Ongoing projects. A total of 1,200 projects continued from the third to the fourth cycle and implementation of an additional 486 newly approved projects started in 1987. When the projects financed under other UNDP core resources - the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries (SMF), Special Programme Resources (SPR), and Special Industrial Services (SIS) - are included, the number of operational projects with budgets for 1987 reaches 1,754. Inclusion of projects
financed by other resources and trust funds brings the total number of operational projects to about 1,900. Consistent with the RBA programmatic approach of concentration of programme activities, it is envisaged that the overall number of projects will show a considerable reduction in the present cycle.

10. Commitments to approved projects. UNDP programmable core resources (including cost-sharing) available for 1987 amounted to approximately $350 million; as of November 1987 about 96 per cent of this amount had been effectively committed in approved projects.

11. Programme budget structure, by component. The programme budget structure, in terms of input components, continues to show reductions of expenditure for project personnel and increases for training activities. This trend reflects the emphasis put on the increased national enterprise, use of the development of local capabilities, coupled with more consultants and less long-term international personnel.

Programme budget structure: Inputs component

(As percentage of total commitments)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1986</th>
<th>1987</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel (including subcontracts)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. National role in projects. The national role in projects, through the mechanism of government execution, continues to become more prominent in the Africa region. This mode of project execution, which accounted for 130 projects in 1986, continued to increase in 1987 and more such arrangements are foreseen in the newly approved country programmes of several countries.

B. Sectoral allocation of resources

13. In allocating approximately $1 billion in UNDP resources for country programmes for the Africa region in the fourth cycle, RBA has had regard for the sectoral priorities identified in United Nations-PAAERD. The sectoral concentration of these resources is as follows:

/...
### Sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Percentage of resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and agriculture (including water)</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support sectors (agro-industries, transport and communications, trade and finance)</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources development</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic planning and administration</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### C. Review and evaluation of projects and programmes

14. RBA has continued its efforts to attain high standards in the monitoring, review and evaluation of its projects and programmes. Resident representatives, headquarters and executing agencies have worked together to this end, through constant dialogue and the review meetings to which reference has already been made. Progress reports from the field on project implementation are provided on a regular basis to headquarters. Cluster meetings of resident representatives have permitted fruitful exchanges of information and have contributed to better co-ordination of policies and actions concerning sectoral or subregional concerns.

15. The formulation of country programmes for the fourth cycle was carried out in the light of the evaluation of the third cycle programme and, for some countries, the new country programme reflects also the macro-economic policies agreed to in the context of a round table or a consultative group. Further input to the country programmes for the Central African Republic, Swaziland and Zambia has come from recommendations from National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NaTCAP) exercises; recommendations concerning the technical co-operation needs of Benin, Burundi, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, which will become available in the near future when the first phase of a NaTCAP exercise is completed, will undoubtedly have an impact on the country programmes for these countries. The new country programme for the Central African Republic, for example, reflects not only the findings of the evaluation study but also takes account of the Government's macro-economic priorities established in the context of the Round Table held in June 1987 as well as recommendations emanating from the first phase of a NaTCAP study. For Swaziland and Zambia, the country programme was in each case reoriented to take account of NaTCAP recommendations.

16. From the evaluations of third cycle country programmes in the Africa region, strong indications emerged that RBA should alter its patterns of resource allocation in two respects in particular: (a) Bureau resources should be more highly concentrated with respect to sectors or objectives and less diffused throughout the economy; and (b) the Bureau should provide increased support to national administrations in the areas of economic management and planning in
formulating fourth cycle country programmes. RBA has had regard for these considerations. In Cameroon, for example, the Bureau's assistance is now concentrated on two sectors - industry and agriculture. The new country programme for Zaire has about 29 projects as compared with 83 in the previous programme. Rwanda is but one example where UNDP, in the new programme, increased its assistance to government planning and economic management. The country programme for Equatorial Guinea, where UNDP assistance was already heavily concentrated on economic management, was revalidated. With an increasing number of African Governments participating in the various aid-co-ordination exercises available to them, the Bureau expects to be able to make its country programmes truly responsive to national priorities as identified in the context of these exercises.

D. Promotion of special features of technical co-operation

17. Support to structural adjustment. RBA is providing increased support to African Governments in carrying out structural adjustment and economic reform measures, to strengthen their national capabilities in such areas as economic and financial management and planning, administration, statistics, and manpower projections. Some of the projects to be implemented are highlighted here. Under a Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa (SAPAM), using trust funds of approximately $5 million pledged by the Government of the Netherlands, projects in administration and management have been identified for implementation in seven African countries. To strengthen national capacity in economic planning at both the central and the sectoral level, about 300 projects, with a cost of approximately $150 million, are being carried out in African countries, of which well over 100 are designed to help those countries maximize their structural adjustment programmes or deal with developments which may emanate from such programmes. Assistance is also being provided to African Governments that are considering the adoption of structural adjustment measures. Additional assistance is being provided under the regional programme to help African Governments negotiate and implement structural adjustment programmes (see para. 39).

18. Non-governmental organizations. United Nations-PAAERD stresses the importance of ensuring the participation of the people in all dimensions of development. Non-governmental organizations have long been recognized to be especially effective in supporting the development process through their ability to involve participation by the people. RBA is therefore very supportive of the trend exhibited by a number of African Governments to encourage and broaden the role of non-governmental organization activity in development activities. Round-table follow-up meetings have been convened exclusively for the participation of non-governmental organizations or with their involvement in relevant sectoral consultations. On a pilot basis, such organizations are becoming associated more closely with the country programme process so as to identify selected opportunities for parallel or co-financing with RBA. The Bureau will also take under consideration recommendations contained in a major UNDP study carried out to identify ways of further expanding co-operation between UNDP and non-governmental organizations.
19. **Women's role in development.** The country and intercountry programmes for Africa in the fourth cycle have a significantly increased number of projects in which women have a predominant role, either as participants or as beneficiaries. There are a number of projects dealing with increased food productivity in support of the crucial role of women in African food production. Other projects are designed to enhance women's role in the informal sector; to improve access to low-cost water supplies; to launch credit schemes for the productive activities of women; and to promote women's involvement in the use of new/renewable sources of energy. Under the regional programme, RBA will support the establishment of a Women in Development unit in the African Development Bank. RBA believes that Africa's women offer the region the potential for a much fuller participation in the professions, the sciences, and especially the new technologies, many of which yield high returns in productivity from relatively short training periods. In consultation with African Governments, RBA will continue to explore the possibilities of identifying appropriate projects and programmes designed to realize this potential.

20. **The private sector.** Consistent with the United Nations-PAAERD strategy by which "the positive role of the private sector is to be encouraged", and corresponding to growing efforts on the part of some African countries to define policies and create an environment favourable to private sector enterprise, both domestic and foreign, RBA at their request is increasing its support to these countries in this area. The Bureau has entered into close collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the African Development Bank to develop private sector assistance projects for Africa. The regional programme is contributing to the funding of an African Project Development Facility which assists African entrepreneurs by providing advisory and technical services. In addition, negotiations are being conducted between RBA and IFC concerning possible UNDP involvement in two other project proposals: (a) the African Management Services Company (AMSCo), which would provide executive management services and would also prepare qualified trainees for private sector-oriented programmes at local and regional African training institutions; and (b) the Foreign Investment Advisory Services (FIAS) which would assist African Governments in formulating policies to facilitate and regulate the inflow of foreign private investment. The Bureau is also considering a proposal for a demonstration pilot project by which a non-governmental organization experienced in industry promotion would assist a small number of African Governments to identify measures to encourage the establishment of private sector small-scale industries in priority sectors, or subsectors. Another proposal under consideration is for the holding of seminars in two African countries to discuss legal constraints to private enterprise development.

E. **Modalities of technical assistance**

21. **Technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC)/economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC)** - The Lagos Plan of Action and United Nations-PAAERD emphasized South-South co-operation as an important strategy to promote collective self-reliance among African countries. RBA has long supported African countries in South-South co-operation and this support is increased in the
fourth cycle. Currently, more than 40 ongoing UNDP-assisted projects in the Africa region have TCDC objectives or components. Additional to these are a number of ECDC projects to strengthen intercountry institutions. Under its regional programme, RBA, in collaboration with the World Food Council (WFC) and the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), provided funding support to a series of meetings held in the course of 1987: simultaneous meetings in April 1987 held at Yaoundé, Lusaka and Dakar; and an interregional meeting held at Lomé, Togo, in May 1987, the conclusions and recommendations of which were endorsed by WFC at its thirteenth session, held at Beijing in June 1987, and by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in June 1987.

22. **Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN).** Since 1977, TOKTEN projects have been initiated in five countries in Africa: Benin, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Guinea and Uganda, as well as a regional Africa TOKTEN project. By end of 1987, close to 90 consultancies in Africa will have been completed, 40 of which were undertaken in 1987. The Guinea TOKTEN project was evaluated in 1987.

23. **Short-term Advisory Services (STAS).** STAS has fielded six missions to Africa thus far in 1987. Advisers provided inputs on electro-technical maintenance in the Central African Republic; gave marketing advice to a canny and production assistance to a meat-packing enterprise, both in Lesotho; assisted with the establishment of an information and documentation center at the Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research in Dakar; advised private businessmen on the establishment of a management service organization to assist national small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs in Togo; and provided technical advice to an aquaculture firm cultivating prawns in Zimbabwe.

### III. CO-ORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

24. The Regional Bureau for Africa attaches the highest importance to its efforts to achieve improved co-ordination of assistance to African countries and to mobilize additional resources in support of their economic recovery efforts. The Bureau is very actively involved in several aid co-ordination mechanisms.

#### A. Round tables

25. RBA has continued to assist African Governments to organize round-table meetings, in conformity with the new format adopted in 1985 and its different phases: round-table conference, in-country review meetings, and sectoral and special programme consultations. Round-table conferences were held for Cape Verde in October 1986, for the Central African Republic in June 1987, and for the Niger from 30 June to 1 July 1987. An in-country review meeting for Cape Verde took place at Praia in December 1986. Sector or special programme consultations were organized in 1986-1987 in Benin (transport), Burkina Faso (health and anti-desertification), Cape Verde (non-governmental organizations), Chad (agro-sylvo-pastoral), the Gambia (agriculture), Guinea-Bissau (agriculture and health), Mali (drought and desertification), Rwanda (water and sanitation), Sao Tome and Principe (rural development, energy and water, and non-governmental
organizations) and Togo (rural development, social sector and human resources management). Further sectoral consultations to be held in the immediate future are in the planning stage.

26. At the round-table conferences held for Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and Niger, consensus emerged in each case on the overall orientations of the national development strategies as well as clear recommendations for changes or improvement in certain policies. During round-table discussions, a number of donors referred to United Nations-PAAERD in announcing improvements in the modalities of their aid or increases in the volume of assistance. The experience of the three round-table conferences held since June 1986 indicates that the majority of donors are favorably inclined towards providing their aid on concessional terms and that an increasing number are also ready to consider a request for non-project aid, in particular in the context of an adjustment programme supported by the World Bank and/or the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

27. Assessment of the extent to which a country's requirements for development or adjustment purposes are covered by its aid partners is complicated by a number of factors. For example, differences may exist in estimated needs as determined by the various sources of estimates; and declarations of fund commitment or intent may differ from fund disbursements. Nevertheless, in the case of round tables held over the past year for Cape Verde, the Central African Republic and the Niger, the Governments' estimates of the financing requirements for the next few years (which were globally consistent with the World Bank and/or IMF) should be more than adequately covered by the financing announced by the donors at the round-table conferences. Thus in Cape Verde, the Government requested about $260 million for the implementation of the first three years of its Plan; intentions announced by donors amounted to $300 million. In the case of the Central African Republic, announcements of annual assistance amounting to $190 million were made against the financing requirements of the public investment programme estimated at $160 million per year during the next three years. The financing announced during the Round-Table Conference for Niger exceeded $390 million per year against annual external financial requirements for the public sector estimated at a yearly average of $350 million over the period 1987-1991.

28. In assisting African countries to prepare for round tables, RBA has strengthened its co-ordination with both the World Bank and IMF. Guiding principles for aid co-ordination in sub-Saharan Africa which were adopted by the Bureau and the World Bank in February 1986 are being fully implemented. RBA headquarters staff consult regularly with Bank officials throughout the preparatory phase of a round-table meeting and the Bank makes its economic and sectoral analyses available to UNDP staff and consultants. With the Government's approval, the Bank also receives and comments on the draft documentation prepared for these meetings. Moreover, since the agreements negotiated by the African countries with IMF have very significant implications for their short- and medium-term economic policies, it is essential that such agreements be reflected in policy documents prepared for the round-table meetings. In May 1987, it was agreed with IMF that UNDP staff will have access to some of its documents for the preparation of round-table conferences. Also, IMF will participate more fully in the round-table conferences.
B. National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes

29. In 1985, RBA launched, in an initial pilot phase, the National Technical Co-operation Assessment and Programmes (NaTCAP). The Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted a resolution in October 1986 endorsing this new approach to technical co-operation. This initiative aims at assisting African Governments to better assess, direct and plan technical assistance, making it more effective in achieving self-reliance in institutional capacity and human resources. A well-founded plan and strategy of technical co-operation, integrated into a country's development and investment plans, would provide a basis for the assertion of government priorities and would provide a framework for co-ordination of external inputs and effective monitoring.

30. Currently, NaTCAPs are under way or under discussion in 12 countries at different stages, as follows. In the Central African Republic, Swaziland and Zambia, phase I has been completed, and follow-up is being pursued; results have been encouraging. In the Central African Republic, for example, recommendations for institutional reorganization of select ministries have been adopted and are under implementation and a subsequent phase focusing on the Ministry of Rural Development is under way. In Swaziland, the outline of a Technical Co-operation Policy and Action Plan was adopted by the Cabinet and review of implementation of this Action Plan will be incorporated into the process of budgeting and development plan reviews. In addition, a programme for strengthening government technical co-operation management capability has been put in place with UNDP assistance. In Zambia, NaTCAP findings have been thoroughly discussed in a workshop and a Government White Paper on technical co-operation policy is under preparation. The first phase of a NaTCAP exercise is nearing completion in four countries: Benin, Burundi, Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. For three countries - Ghana, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania - an exercise is in preparation and discussions concerning a NaTCAP exercise are being held with two countries, Mauritania and Sierra Leone.

31. UNDP intends to keep NaTCAPs under review and to introduce those measures deemed necessary to strengthen and improve the exercise. A review of the modalities used so far in NaTCAPs has been conducted, as reported already in a paper to the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole of the Governing Council in February 1988 (DP/1988/WG/WP.1). Its recommendations are now being implemented in the continuation of the whole exercise.

C. Participation in consultative groups

32. UNDP continues to participate in the consultative groups held under the auspices of the World Bank. Since June 1986, UNDP has participated in the Consultative Group meetings held for Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. Now that the subject of technical co-operation is to be on the agenda of each Consultative Group meeting, and because of the necessity to involve fully the World Bank in the round-table process, a working group under the aegis of the UNDP/World Bank Task Force has been established to define the modalities and guidelines for mutual co-operation for the benefit of the African countries involved.
IV. INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES

33. The total resources under UNDP intercountry programmes for Africa in the fourth cycle amount to $211.9 million, of which $195.7 million is IPF resources while $16.2 million represents Special Programme Resources, third-party cost-sharing and UNDP trust funds. The intercountry programme, which was approved by the Governing Council in June 1987, focuses on four areas of concentration, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of concentration</th>
<th>Percentage of resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Research and development for food production</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Productivity and management for production of goods and services</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Natural resources</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Infrastructure</td>
<td>21.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unprogrammed reserve</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. At the regional level, RBA is working closely with ECA and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), providing funding for a number of projects in a variety of areas to be executed by ECA and for others which are being formulated in close collaboration with ECA and OAU. Also within the context of the regional programme, a number of projects to strengthen African regional and subregional institutions will receive funding. For example, activities of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) will be supported through a UNDP contribution to a food security programme and to the SADCC regional training centre. Proposals for UNDP funding support to a further nine SADCC projects are currently being appraised. The regional programme is also strengthening its support to selected programmes of other African subregional groupings, especially to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Preferential Trade Area (PTA). A special study funded by the regional programme and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) with regard to anti-drought and desertification strategies and priority needs assessment has been completed. The Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) will benefit from the joint RBA/UNSO undertaking. Co-operation with UNSO has been strengthened at the programme and project level.
35. In order to maximize the impact of some projects of high priority for recipient countries, IPF funds have been utilized in conjunction with financial resources made available through UNSO. With UNDP/IPF usually financing the technical assistance component, this co-operation took the form of straight cost-sharing in specific projects, or of complementary activities in separate projects with specific interactions between the two. A major collaborative effort has been approved for the Niger involving the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)/UNSO/UNDP and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE), which will execute the project.

36. The past year has also seen much closer linkages between the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and core IPF funds. UNCDF approved 14 small-scale investment projects in Africa, during the period from June 1986 to June 1987, for a total of $26.7 million in 10 least developed countries, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda and Togo. All these UNCDF projects are supported by complementary technical assistance from each national IPF.

37. The projects approved by UNCDF are in the areas of: (a) rural water supply (Burkina Faso and Chad); (b) construction and rehabilitation of feeder roads (Benin, the Central African Republic, Malawi and Togo); (c) agriculture and rural development (Burkina Faso, Guinea and Rwanda); (d) education and literacy (Chad and Malawi); and (e) women's activities (the Gambia and the Niger).

38. The regional programme is also providing support to a series of consultative processes undertaken to strengthen co-ordination of efforts in respect of African economic recovery, both within the United Nations system and between the system and Governments, donors, regional and subregional groups and non-governmental organizations. Thus, in its support of a strong and coherent response by the United Nations system to United Nations-PAAERD, the regional programme is providing support to the Steering Committee established by the Secretary-General, providing staffing and funding to the secretariat established to service the Committee and special support to information activities. Other consultative processes supported under the regional programme include the International Conference on Africa: the challenge of economic recovery and accelerated development, held at Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1987, which resulted in the "Abuja Statement"; the First Congress of African Scientists, held at Brazzaville in June 1987, at which it was decided to establish a non-governmental Pan African Union of Science and Technology; and a cluster group meeting of the resident representatives in the Sahelian countries in April 1987, and of the southern African countries in February 1987. The resident representatives of the IGADD countries met in December 1987 with UNSO, which provided the necessary financial support.

39. Under a series of special initiatives undertaken by RBA, the regional programme is contributing to the funding of a regional project to be executed by the World Bank in association with ECA to monitor aid flows and development programmes in the Africa region. UNDP, the World Bank and the African Development Bank are funding jointly a regional project which will address directly the social dimensions of structural adjustment. With possible funding from other donors, the regional programme will support a project which is being launched by which roving
Structural Adjustment Advisory Teams for Africa (SAATAs) are to be fielded to help African Governments strengthen their capacity to prepare, negotiate and monitor adjustment-related activities.

V. FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

40. Looking to its future role in African economic recovery and development efforts, RBA believes that it can best support these endeavours by focusing its assistance on two areas which will continue to be of crucial importance to African countries: one is management; the other is the alleviation of the persistent and widespread poverty in the region.

41. Management. The Bureau's support to management will be at three levels: (a) with the co-operation of executing agencies, RBA will make every effort to speed up the rate of project delivery; the Bureau's consultations with principal executing agencies of the United Nations system held in April and June 1987 were but one of the steps taken to expedite project delivery; (b) the Bureau will work, both at field level and at headquarters, to achieve improved management of its projects; and (c) through its programming, the Bureau will continue to provide and will increase its support to national administrations in Africa to improve their capability in such areas as economic and financial management, planning, administration, statistics and manpower projections. Already, under fourth cycle country programmes, RBA has allocated $150 million for projects to strengthen national capability in economic management and has established a Special Action Programme for Administration and Management.

42. Poverty alleviation. The short-term social and economic stresses that can arise from the implementation of structural adjustment measures, compounding in many instances the problem of deep and widespread poverty, can present a formidable challenge to Governments. RBA will seek, in consultation with African Governments, to strengthen its support to endeavours to alleviate poverty and create employment opportunities within their countries. Already exemplifying this support is the Bureau's contribution to a multi-donor project to be executed by the World Bank over the next five years designed to help African Governments meet the challenge in this area. The Bureau will continue also, in consultation with African Governments, to identify projects which will have an impact on the social and economic well-being of African people at the grass-roots level.